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Emergency Response and Recovery Pre-Deployment And Deployment Safety Briefing

NOTE: This briefing should be edited and adapted to address the specifics of the emergency deployment. It should be updated as necessary to reflect the actual conditions anticipated during deployment.

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Minimum Dress & PPE for Fieldwork

- Watertight boots with steel toe & insole
- Hard hat
- Safety glasses (with sideshields)
- Type II Reflective vest (minimum). The red EOC shirt is for identification only and is not considered reflective wear.
- Hearing protection (ear plugs or muffs) as required.
- Respiratory protection as required (must be medically certified, trained, & fit tested to wear a respirator). Disposable dust masks may be issued for nuisance dust and do not require fit testing, specific training, etc.

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Minimum Dress & PPE for Fieldwork

- Hand protection as necessary
- Chemical and/or biological PPE as necessary (latex gloves, protective coveralls, etc)
- Sunscreen
- Antibacterial wipes/bleach-containing spray cleaner (not aerosol)

Note: Employees will normally be expected to bring safety footwear and prescription safety glasses. Other PPE will be issued upon arrival at deployment duty station.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- Long pants and short sleeve shirt is minimum dress requirement
- Carry emergency and essential phone numbers on you at all times. Some of those numbers include supervisor/team leader, field office, safety office and security
- Ensure you bring with you at least a 30 day supply of any personal medications that you require. Pharmacies may be closed.
- Drink plenty of water. Avoid drinks with caffeine , and alcohol. Both cause loss of water and increase your potential for heat related illnesses.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- Travelers should be prepared for little infrastructure regarding food and water distribution, electricity, waste management and transportation. Carry emergency supplies, including adequate drinking water and food. A complete travel health kit, with extra medications, should be carried at all times.

- There is an increased risk of developing diarrhea from contaminated food, ice, and water. Do not consume any food, ice, water, or beverages (including bottled water) that have not been approved.

- Local medical support is limited.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- Drinking of alcohol and working will not be tolerated. If you do, you will be immediately sent back to your duty station.
- Be very alert of all activities that are occurring where there is a chance of the public, especially children, entering the work area. Public safety is a major responsibility.
- Be extremely aware of wild and domestic animals. They may be disorientated, diseased, and a threat to your safety. All bites should receive immediate medical attention.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- The combination of long shifts, and seven-day workweeks can cause extreme stress and anxiety. Therefore, pace yourself accordingly to adjust to a different work regimen.

- Protect yourself from the natural elements. Ensure that you have appropriate clothing and supplies i.e. sunscreen, insect repellent, lip balm, foot powder, antifungal cream, and bottled water.

- Drive defensively and take adequate time to become familiar with your vehicles and then appropriately map and locate your destinations. No driving and talking on cell phones. Drive with your headlights on.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- While driving, please beware of debris and other objects in the road; inoperative/missing traffic signals, sink holes, deep standing water, and downed power lines. Don’t forget the transportation of non-DoD civilians in government owned or procured vehicles is prohibited, and could be dangerous.

- Stay out of damaged buildings and structures. Beware of leaking gas lines, downed/energized power lines, and the potential for fire and explosion.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- Use the buddy system on and off work hours. Stay alert. Avoid questionable neighborhoods. Travel with a means of communication if at all possible.

- Maintain your professionalism at all times. Remember that you are representing the United States & the Corps of Engineers and have bee sent to the area to offer assistance in a natural disaster.

- All accidents must be reported to your supervisor and the emergency field office (EFO) Safety Officer immediately. If the supervisor is not available, report the accident to the on-site next level of supervision.

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Items To Be Aware Of:

- Avoid exposure to blood or bodily fluids. If exposed, wash with soap and water or a minimum of a 10% bleach/water solution & notify your supervisor immediately.
- If clothing, shoes/boots, and/or vehicles are exposed to blood, bodily fluids, or sewage, decontaminate with a bleach-containing spray cleaner or a minimum of a 10% bleach/water solution.
- Note any allergic reactions to fungus or molds. If experienced, notify your supervisor immediately.
- Avoid any confrontation with the public. Maintain your professionalism at all times.

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Typical QA Activities

- Structural Inspections
- Debris Removal/reduction
- Roofing
- Temp Housing

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Structural Inspections Hazards

- Laceration and puncture wounds from protruding nails, sharp metals, etc.
- Head injuries from falling building debris.
- Slips, trips & falls from uneven walking surfaces & floor openings.
- Potential broken gas lines, exposed & energized power lines, damaged LP gas containers.
- Exposure to household hazardous waste.

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Structural Inspections Hazards

- Unsafe Elevators.
- Eye injuries from wind blown particulates.
- Heat stress.
- Respiratory illness.
- Bio-medical waste.
- Exposure to harmful environments contaminated by sewage, waste, dead bodies, and bodily fluids

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Structural Inspections Hazards

- Poisonous plants/threatening animals & reptiles.
- Sunburn.
- Damaged roadways and bridges.
- Inoperative traffic and street lights.
- Missing regulatory and directional street signs.
- Psychological stress due to exposure to human loss of life and environmental mass destruction.

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Debris Removal/Reduction Hazards

- Laceration and puncture wounds from protruding nails and other objects.
- Head injuries from falling objects such as trees and tree limbs, objects thrown by grinders.
- Moving equipment (e.g., trucks, dozers, track hoes, front-end loaders).
- Noise from equipment.
- Eye injuries from wind blown particulates.
- Slips and falls, tower stairs.

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Debris Removal/Reduction Hazards

- Exposure to CO from vehicle exhaust and temporary heaters in enclosed towers.
- Potential for towers to be struck by vehicles or equipment.
- Potential for faulty construction of towers and access stairs.
- Potential for slips on tower steps without non-skid treads.
- Ground personnel struck by overhanging loads.
- Potential for poor vehicle access to removal/reduction sites and poor traffic patterns

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Debris Removal/Reduction Hazards

- Heat stress
- Respiratory illness
- Bio-medical waste
- Electrical shock
- Poisonous plants
- Exposure to harmful environments contaminated by sewage, waste, dead bodies, and bodily fluids

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Debris Removal/Reduction Hazards

- Severe weather, including driving in inclement weather and fog
- Stinging and biting insects
- Low light conditions
- Congested work areas
- Sunburn

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Roofing Hazards

- Laceration and puncture wounds from protruding nails and other objects.
- Crushing injuries from “cave-in” of roofs.
- Falls thru damaged areas of roofs.
- Falls thru skylights or unguarded openings.
- Slippery “blue roof” material
- Sunburn

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Roofing Hazards

- Electrical shock from downed power lines, exposed wiring in structures
- Falls from climbing onto roofs or unsecured ladders
- Household chemicals/flammables, asbestos
- Unsafe elevators
- Heat stress

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Temporary Housing Hazards

- Laceration and puncture wounds from protruding nails and sharp objects.
- Potential for crushing injuries during set-up.
- Moving equipment.
- Flash burns from welding operations.
- Falls from heights.
- Eye injuries from wind blown particulates.

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Temporary Housing Hazards

- Potential for unstable access to trailer/temporary housing.
- Unguarded sewer excavations.
- Potential for improper electrical installation.
- Heat stress.
- Sunburn.

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Past Contractor Accidents

- Toe amputation – Occurred while changing the teeth in the hammer mill of a tub grinder. The worker failed to secure the hammer mill in place which resulted in it rolling after the tooth was removed and crushing a worker's toe.
- Finger amputation – Tree removal worker failed to perform back cut on tree limb resulting in the limb peeling back and crushing his finger.
- Track hoes destroyed by fire at debris reduction site. Mulch build up on track hoe caught fire.
- Dozer burns up after driving into air curtain incinerator.
- Dump truck operator crushed by dump bed.
- Dump trucks turning over while emptying load.

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Field Aids For Your Use
(Available on ENGLink under the SOH Functional Team Menu)

- Position Hazard Analysis for various QA activities.
- Quality assurance checklist for various QA activities.
- Tailgate fencing diagrams.
- Fall protection guidelines.
- Equipment checklist.

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Medical Screening

- All USACE Employee should complete a Medical Screening Questionnaire Prior to deployment (Unless already completed last year).
- All USACE Employees should complete and document all required immunizations on the medical screening questionnaire prior to deployment.
- All USACE Employees should receive their Medical Clearance prior to deployment.

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Medical Screening

- Medical Screening Questionnaires
- Access on ENGLink under the “Tools” menu.
- The Emergency Response Medical Screening and Clearance Packet is applicable to all Civil Emergency deployments within the United States and its territories.
- Emergency Response Medical Screening are normally valid for two years .

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Medical Screening Questionnaires

Employee:

- Read the instructions for completing each of the three forms of the Medical Screening Packet
- Complete each form
- Fax the entire package to the medical provider for evaluation (fax number provided in ENGLink)

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Medical Screening Questionnaires

- If there is problem with questionnaire or additional information is needed, the medical provider will contact the employee

- After thorough review, the Medical Provider generates a clearance memorandum. This memo is sent to the employee, their Emergency Operations Center, and their Safety Office.

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Medical Screening

You are strongly encouraged to carry a *hardcopy* of your *Medical Clearance Memorandum* and *Immunization record* with you to your deployment site.

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Health Threat Information

- Minimum Immunizations Required:
  - Tetanus/diphtheria
  - Hepatitis A
- Other Possible Immunizations
  - Hepatitis B (Healthcare and rescue workers)
  - Rabies (Animal control activities)
  - Influenza (if available)

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Health Threat Information

- Heat-injury Precautions
  - Drink approved fluids frequently to avoid dehydration
  - Adhere to work-rest cycles during extreme conditions
  - Observe other personnel for warning signs including mental status change and cessation of sweating

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Health Threat Information

- Hazardous Plants and Animals
  - Avoid contact with plants
  - Avoid burning plants – the smoke may cause skin or lung irritation
  - Avoid contact with animals – Rabies is endemic throughout the area.
  - Immediately report and seek medical treatment for any animal bites/scratches
  - All snakes should be considered venomous and be avoided

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Health Threat Information

Disease Personal Protective Measures

- Use 33% extended-duration DEET (or equivalent) on all exposed skin, reapply every 4-6 hours, apply DEET ~30 minutes prior to applying sunscreen
- (Note: DEET reduce effectiveness of sunscreen by ~35%, therefore SPF 30 is recommended)
- If possible, use a treated, properly installed bed net

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Health Threat Information

STRESS

- Stress can be intensified when you are exposed to or observe human suffering and/or death
- Fear and physical signs or symptoms of stress are normal reactions
- Learn ways to relax quickly
- Give fellow team members moral support
- Care for your buddies and work together
- Talk about your experiences with team members

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Additional Sources of Information

http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/news/Hurricanes17June05.mht

http://www.fema.gov/library/respandrecov.shtm

http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/workersafety.asp

http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/hurricaneRecovery.html

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ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?